

Message

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Sent: 3/14/2019 12:06:16 PM
To: SMSGS@state.gov
CC: John.E.Thompson@nsc.eop.gov; Preston.W.Griffith@nsc.eop.gov; BernicatMS@state.gov; Manisha Singh (DOS): [SinghM9@state.gov]; Wheeler, Andrew [wheeler.andrew@epa.gov]; McIntosh, Chad [mcintosh.chad@epa.gov]; tallyT@state.gov; DohertyBP@state.gov; Jackson, Ryan [jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
Subject: US Delegation Achievements at U.N. Environment Assembly 4, Nairobi

Dear Mr. Secretary:

On behalf of Cal Dooley, President and CEO of the American Chemistry Council, I wanted to commend the U.S. delegation for its remarkable achievements at the U.N. Environment Assembly (UNEA) meeting, still underway in Nairobi. Overall, the results of the UNEA-4 meeting demonstrate significant U.S. leadership across a wide range of issues. The strength of the U.S. delegation was notable and much appreciated.

I particularly want to commend the U.S. delegation for its achievements on two resolutions related to marine plastic waste and single use plastics. In the face of near-unanimous opposition, the U.S. held firm on its principled position. The U.S. encouraged – and achieved – a more rational and pragmatic approach to these issues, even as the more visceral solutions advocated by other delegations (notably the European Union) were backed by a substantial majority of governments. The U.S. reinforced the use of science and data to inform policy, and the need for cooperation on innovation and environmentally-sound approaches. As a result of the U.S. engagement, the focus of the debate was on actions to address marine litter rather than the creation of new global governance structures.

We strongly believe that the outcomes achieved in Nairobi were the best possible given the very challenging negotiating environment. For our part, it is clear that industry must provide additional evidence of the innovations and actions we are undertaking to address the global challenge of plastic waste in the environment, and we are committed to continue to work closely with the Administration in support of robust engagement in UNEA and other international forums. The U.S. effort to advocate on behalf of U.S. business interests, and the innovation, economic benefits, and competitiveness we can deliver, is very much appreciated.

Please feel free to contact Cal at 202 249-7000 (Cal_dooley@americanchemistry.com) or me (Mike Walls, ACC's Vice President of Regulatory & Technical Affairs (mike_walls@americanchemistry.com)) if you would like additional information or have any questions.

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